

5 March 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: River Resources Coordinating Team (RRCT) Meeting

1. The RRCT met on 18 January 2005 in Rock Island, Illinois. The following were in attendance.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Bob Clevensine

Russell Englke

**U.S. Coast Guard**

Chris Pisares

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

Mike Griffin

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources**

Not represented

**Missouri Department of Conservation**

Janet Sternburg

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

Gretchen Benjamin

**Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District**

Mike Cox

Roger Perk

Mark Schroeder

Steve Johnson

Mark Cornish

Kenny Brenner

Teresa Kincaid

Jerry Skalak

Mark Anderson

Tim Fiscus

Bob Lazenby

George Hardison

**Guests**

**Material Services Inc.**

Michael Brennan

Gary O'Toole

John Hallozan

2. Gretchen Benjamin (Co-Chair) began the meeting with introductions. Motion to approve minutes from January meeting (enclosure 1) as amended was made by Mike Griffin and seconded by Janet Sternburg. The agenda for the meeting (enclosure 2) was reviewed. No changes were made.
3. Kenn Shoemaker (Co-Chair) was represented by George Hardison. Mr. Hardison will be acting Co-Chair for the next several RRCT meetings.

4. Appropriation Update. Reported that the fiscal year 2005 appropriation bill has been passed by Congress and signed into law. However, work allowances have not been received. The District is operating with in small increments of funding from Division. The following items were reported to the team:
  - Upper Mississippi River (UMR) and Illinois Waterway (IWW) Navigation Program \$13.8m (20% savings and slippage will be applied).
  - Environmental Management Program (EMP) appropriations are \$17.5m with no savings and slippage subtracted. Anticipating about 10% savings and slippage.
  - Section 206 capped nationwide at \$25m. Earmarked projects are funded first.
  - Section 204 \$6m nationwide.
  - Section 1135 \$25m nationwide.
  - Operations and Maintenance appropriation for MVR is \$87.6m minus savings and slippage. Security requirements of \$2.5m could be required from the \$87.6 million.
  - Illinois River
    - Ecosystem Feasibility \$200k. General Investigations appropriation was \$700k before savings and slippage.
    - Illinois River 519 River Restoration study appropriation was \$400k.
5. Meeting Schedule. The next RRCT meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 2005 from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. The RRCT agreed that this will be conducted via teleconference.
6. Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP).
  - Requested RRCT approval of the Grist Island DMMP report (enclosure 3). Mike Griffin made a motion to approve with the caveat that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) representative will be contacted for their approval, Janet Sternburg seconded and the motion carried. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources was not represented at the meeting. Follow up telephone conversation indicated Illinois Department of Natural Resources (Jim Mick) approved the report.
7. Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway Navigation Program (enclosure 4)
  - The planned implementation of the study recommendations including navigation and ecosystem restoration was discussed.
  - Fiscal year 2005 appropriation is \$13.8m minus 20% savings and slippage.
  - The team is developing plans on how to conduct preconstruction engineering (PED). This will be a multi-district effort (St. Louis, Rock Island and St. Paul) and will require continued involvement of a wide range of stakeholders and contractors.
  - Copies of the draft FY05 work plan were distributed.
  - Discussed the need for possible restructuring of the existing institutional arrangements for coordination and decision making. A volunteer group has been working for the past several months to develop a recommend framework for institutional arrangements. The draft proposal will be distributed for review and comment in early February 2005.
8. Upper Mississippi River – Environmental Management Program (EMP)
  - Fiscal year 2005 appropriation \$17.5 million.
  - The program received about \$1 million dollars more than FY04.

- Items discussed included the Independent Technical Review Committee, Long-Term Resources Monitoring Program, and the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Program.
  - The Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee has received updated fact sheets for new project proposals.
9. Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee (FWIC) Chairman's Report
    - FWIC meeting was held on 21 December 2004.
    - Discussed pool plans and 404 studies.
    - Discussed how EMP, FWIC and Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway Navigation Program will fit together.
    - Discussed that FWIC could be used as a forum for a winter OSIT.
  10. Illinois River Ecosystem Study and Illinois River 519 River Restoration.
    - Waiting for resolution of the Alternative Formulation Briefing (AFB) with comments from Corps' headquarters'.
    - When the AFB is complete, the draft plan can be sent out for public review.
  11. Environmental Continuing Authorities Program (CAP).
    - No work allowances have been received yet for CAP projects.
    - CAP programs are funded at the national level. However, most of the funds are earmarked for specific projects. Several Rock Island District projects are funded.
  12. Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan.
    - Handouts are attached as enclosure 5.
    - Presented alternative plan descriptions.
    - Discussed development of critical infrastructure alternatives that protect bridge approaches. The alternative at Quincy Bridge may have a positive benefit to cost ratio.
    - Alternatives may include reconstruction (e.g. pump stations).
    - FY 05 appropriation is \$1.17m minus savings and slippage.
    - A draft report may be completed this year.
  13. Flow Frequency Study (enclosure 6)
    - Presented on status of portfolio plates.
    - Discussed floodplain computations and FEMA support for map modernization schedule.
    - FPMS will have minor funding this year. Ongoing project at Joyce slough in Clinton, IA.
  14. Planning Assistance to States (PAS)/Floodplain Management Services (FPMS). (enclosure 6)
    - Discussed current status of PAS projects including Sunset Marina, LaSalle/I&M Canal, and a new project at Guttenberg, Iowa.
  15. Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP). (enclosures 3 & 6)
    - Reviewed Grist Island project. Approved with the caveat that Illinois DNR has final approval.

- Discussed program status including schedule and funding.
- Discussed top 17 priority projects.
- Discussed return water issues. Rock Island District is developing a legal opinion on this issue. Issues include return water through ditches would need a risk assessment and cost analysis.
- Discussed Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) authorities usually there are several owners and not all are part of the PCA.
- Discussed the use of land easements and donations. This is being reviewed by the District.

16. Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) Channel Maintenance Pool Planning. (enclosure 7)

- The channel maintenance pool plans will contribute to overall District systemic/comprehensive pool planning goal.
- Channel maintenance pool planning priorities will be pools 18 & 21 on the UMR and LaGrange pool on the IWW.
- Efforts this fiscal year will be focused on Pool 18 and LaGrange.
- Channel maintenance pool plans are primarily intended to address channel maintenance dredging and dredged material placement activities and the Committee to Assess Regulatory Structures (CARS).
- FY 05 Funding - \$67k for ILWW; \$42.5k for UMR.
- Discussed teams for Pools 18 and LaGrange.

17. 404 Studies.

- 404 CD entitled “*404 Reports, Assessing the Impact of Dredged Material Placement, Fisheries, Macroinvertebrates, Vegetation, Mussels, & Project Maps*” has been updated.
- CD contains all of the final reports completed through 2004 (including the final fisheries report from the work at Senate Island and Hogback).
- Copies are being sent to members of the 404 Study Team today.
- Copies were made available to the members of the RRCT.
- FWIC reviewed the findings of the USFWS and will formally adopt the language.
- Our results indicate few negative impacts on the fish community at existing dredged material placement sites at Island 241 (Pool 12, Hogback Island (Pool 21), and Senate Island (IWW, LaGrange Pool).
- Impacts to fish communities can be minimized by restricting placement activities to existing sand-on-sand sites that have already been used for bankline placement.

Work for this year

- Invertebrates
  - Replicating the UMR Study on the IWW (smaller sieve).
  - Contractor has been unable to get into the field work may be postponed this year due to high water (bugs may have washed away).
- Fisheries
  - Havana Field Station will be doing a comparison of LTRMP fisheries data at dredged material placement areas in Pools 4, 8, 13, and Lagrange (on the IWW) – will be initiating work later this month.

- Iowa DNR is completing report of Island 241.
- BACI analysis report will be produced by the Corps this year.
- FWIC recommended that we attempt hill and swale placement (with aquatic encroachment) and assess the impacts to fisheries.
- Turtles
  - Examining work that MVP and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have done in Pool 5.
- Sediment Transport
  - In the process of completing the draft report of dyed sand study.
  - Micro model report final will be complete this calendar year.
- Plants
  - BACI analyses of data sets.

18. Committee to Assess Regulatory Structures (CARS) (enclosure 8)

- Sabula rock work has been completed.
- Pool 18 Micromodel study is ongoing and should be complete early FY05. Project includes modeling of chevrons.
- Discussed 5 year plan.
- Environmental Assessment should be complete this fiscal year.
- CARS meeting will focus on FY05 schedule.

19. Dredging Update. (enclosures 9, 10 & 11)

- UMR
  - Dredged less volume than average year (293,000 CY compared to 362,000 CY), due to lack of suitable placement options.
  - Started coordination with St. Louis District for placement site for LD 22 Lower.
  - Dredge Thompson replacement – due start of next dredging season.
- ILWW
  - Dredged significantly less than 10-year average (82,000 compared to 211,000 CY).
  - Dredging contract issues still ongoing
  - 401 issues still ongoing
  - Utilized Dredge Dubuque (St. Paul District) for critical dredging requirements.

George Hardison  
Acting Co-Chair, CEMVR-OD-T

12 Encls

1. Agenda
2. October 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes
3. Grist Island DMMP Report
4. Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway Navigation Program Draft Work plan
5. Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan. Alternatives Descriptions January 2005
6. Flood Plain Management Service (FPMS) Planning Assistance to States (PAS) and Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) PowerPoint Presentation
7. Channel Maintenance Pool Plan PowerPoint Presentation
8. Committee to Assess Regulatory Structures 5 Year Plan
9. 2004 Dredging Schedule by Equipment Illinois Waterway
10. 2004 Dredging Schedule by Equipment Upper Mississippi River
11. Dredged Material Management Plan Schedule Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway.
12. River Resource Coordinating Team Mailing List

DISTRIBUTION:

River Resource Coordinating Team Mailing List